

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00809 271124Z
ACTION AF-08

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH, UR
SUBJ: PODGORNYS VISIT TO ZAMBIA: PLEDGE OF ARMS FOR THE LIBERATION
STRUGGLE

SUMMARY: THE SOVIET UNION'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR THE
LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ZAMBIA'S WELCOMING
OF SUCH SUPPORT WAS THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE FIRST DAY OF PODGORNYS
VISIT. HIS WELCOME ON ARRIVAL WAS STANDARD BUT HIS RECEPTION
BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT STATE HOUSE WAS PARTICULARLY CORDIAL.
IN THE EVENING HE WAS ASKED TO TOAST OPPRESSED PEOPLE WHEREVER
THEY MAY BE. END SUMMARY

1. PODGORNYS WELCOME ON HIS ARRIVAL AT
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00809 271124Z

LUSAKA AIRPORT WAS STANDARD FOR VISITING HEADS OF STATE. A
CROWD WAS ON HAND. UNIP ORGANIZERS TRADITIONALLY SEE TO THE
ROUNDING UP AND BUSING OF PARTY FAITHFUL TO THESE OCCASIONS.
CROWD WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED IN CHANTS OF WELCOME FOR PODGORNYS.
DIGNITARIES WERE LINED UP WITH JOSHULA NKOMO FIRST IN LINE FOLLOWED
BY SWAPO'S SAM NUJOMA.

2. WELCOMING PODGORNÝ TO STATE HOUSE, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID WARMLY THAT HE HAD BEEN AWAITING THE SOVIET PRESIDENT'S VISIT WHICH HAD BEEN TOO LONG IN COMING. THE ROAD TO PEACE IN SOUTHERN

AFRICA HAD BEEN CLOSED BECAUSE OF COLONIALISM, RACISM AND FACISM. HE PRAISED THE SOVIET UNION FOR PROVIDING ARMS TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND SAID, "I DO NOT NEED TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WANT THE ARMS BECAUSE THE ROAD TO PEACE IS CLOSED." KAUNDA DESCRIBED THE PODGORNÝ VISIT AS TIMELY BECAUSE IT CAME

WHEN THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS TENSE BECAUSE OF THE REFUSAL OF THE "COLONISLISTS AND RACISTS TO YIELD TO THE CALL OF FREEDOM OF THE MASSES."

3. IN REPLY, PODGORNÝ SAID THE SOVIET UNION WILL PROVIDE ALL THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE - INCLUDING ARMS - TO PURSUE THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT REST UNTIL TOTAL INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IS ACHIEVED. HIS COUNTRY WAS DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT HIS VISIT TO ZAMBIA WOULD PROMOTE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID HIS VISIT COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A MORE APPROPRIATE TIME THAN THIS WHEN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION CALLED FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS LOOKING TOWARDS SOLUTIONS.

4. AT A RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR THE FIRST NIGHT OF HIS VISIT, PODGORNÝ'S HOST, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR LUSAKA PROVINCE, LISULO, WELCOMED HIM BY DESCRIBING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS HAVING REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE DUE TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"BARBARIC ACTS OF AGGRESSION" COMMITTED BY RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. ZAMBIANS APPRECIATE THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA. BUT IN RAISING HIS GLASS LISULO POINTEDLY DRANK TO OPPRESSED PEOPLE WHEREVER THEY MAY BE.

5. PODGORNÝ RESPONDED BY SAYING HIS COUNTRY HAD NO SPECIAL INTEREST IN ANY PART OF AFRICA. ITS ONLY INTEREST IS SEEING THAT "THE SACRED RIGHTS OF EVERY PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY IS RECOGNIZED."

6. PODGORNÝ'S PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 27 DOES NOT CALL FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS. HE LEAVES IN THE EARLY MORNING FOR LIVINGSTONE TO SEE THE FALLS AND RETURNS LATE AFTERNOON. IN THE EVENING HE IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A CULTURAL EVENING WHERE PRESIDENT KAUNDA WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT HE MAY MAKE A STATEMENT WHILE AT VICTORIA FALLS ON THE BORDER WITH RHODESIA. LOW

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